

## ARTISTS IN PORCELAIN.

CHARMS OF FORM, COLOR AND GLAZE GIVING THEM VALUE.

Japanese Porcelain—Exquisite Pieces from Far Away China—The Antiquity of Pottery—Modern Makes That Are Very Valuable.

There is a rage for pottery, porcelain and china of every description in the interests not only the ladies who buy, but the gentlemen who pay for these articles of luxury. So immense is the variety of choice china and so high are the prices, that if the gentlemen do have trouble in finding the wherewithal to keep their wives in fashion, the ladies, too, may complain that their share of the burden is heavy, inasmuch as the duty of selecting the specimens falls upon them, and this, they say, is at least half the work. Aside from this, however, the subject is one of antiquarian interest, for pottery of one kind or another antedates all history, and there never was a time known, so far as records of any

known to them, subjecting the wares to a second burning to fuse the latter glaze. For two centuries the potteries of Majorca kept their secret well, and thus preserved a monopoly of their manufacture, but by emigration neighboring countries of the continent learned the art, and the term Majolica became no longer applicable alone to

stranger that in the time of the Romans the furnaces turned out products which, in their way, were quite as good as those which were given out for sale in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The name of the city was applied to its works, and every one knows how celebrated is the Faience ware. Faenza gives us the

ever since gone by their name. Antiquarians and porcelain cranks distinguished three eras in Chinese porcelain-making. The first, when the white porcelain with blue figures was the only kind; the second, when green of various tints came into use; and the third, when the Chinese discovered and applied the colors known to the European artists. All their best pieces are older than the present century; but as Chinese esteem copies quite as highly as the originals, numbers of pieces identical in appearance are known, this fact, however, not detracting either from their value or price. Porcelain painting among the Chinese was what illumination was to the old-time monks, and they expended quite as much care in the decoration of their porcelain as the monks ever bestowed upon the painting of their manuscripts.

Among the most celebrated pottery brands of more recent times are those known respectively as Royal Worcester, Sevres, Carlsbad, Royal Dresden, Wedgwood, Doulton, Vienna, Crown Derby, Hungarian, Haviland, Burslem, Brownfields, Burston. The Limoges patterns are celebrated the world over. Limoges is the center of the French porcelain manufacture. In this town there are thirty-five porcelain manufacturing works using the kilns, employing 5,000 persons. The great works of the Haviland of New York are in Limoges. They employ 2,000 hands, and frequently turn out 6,000 plates a day.

### Interrupted.

The habit which many people have of contradicting and checking, and "setting right" others who are talking, is very trying even to good-natured men and women. Wives and husbands, and even young folk who should be "seen and not heard," are frequently afflicted with this unfortunate habit, which so often results in family unpleasantness. Mr. B. begins to tell a trifling incident to his guests. He says:

"My wife and I were in town Monday afternoon, and—"

"You are mistaken, my dear; it was Tuesday," interrupts Mrs. B., mildly.

"Oh, so it was," says Mr. B. "Well, we were going down Main street, and—"

"No, dear; it was High street," interrupts Mrs. B. again.

"Well, perhaps it was; anyhow, I had a large bag in my hand, and—"

"Why, James, how ridiculous to call that a large bag!" puts in Mrs. B., with calm insistence.

"Well, well, big or small, as you like," says Mr. B., with signs of irritation. "It doesn't make any difference about the size, so—"

"Of course not; but it is just as well to tell things right as wrong."

"Yes, I suppose so; well, we had just gone into Brown & Smith's shop, and—"

"Why, James, what are you talking about? We didn't go into Brown & Smith's at all that day."

"We certainly did, Mary. I got a handkerchief there, and—"

"Oh, so you did; I had forgotten. I beg your pardon for interrupting you," she added, as though it had been a first offense.

"Well, it was about 3 o'clock," proceeded the husband, "when—"

"No dear; it was exactly half-past 2; I remember looking at my watch at the time."

"Well, well, Mary, I said it was 'about 3,' and—"

"Here he stopped, as if he had forgotten what he was about to tell, or did not care to proceed; then he went on, and ran pleasantly against another impediment."

"Well, as I was saying, we came out of the shop, and hadn't gone a stone's throw—"

"Oh, yes, we had, James; we had gone nearly down the street."

"All right; down the street it was. I was quite a little distance ahead of my wife, and—"

"Why, James, you're mistaken."

And so it goes on to the end, which is not reached for about an hour, when the whole story might have been told in ten minutes, and Mr. B. been saved an outburst of ill-humor after the departure of the guests, if Mrs. B. had not been so morbidly resolute that the most trivial circumstances should be reported exactly.

### The Weight of Eggs.

It may be interesting to know what is considered standard for the size or weight of eggs of the different varieties of domestic fowls.

Light Brahma and Partridge Cochins, seven to the pound; they lay, according to treatment and food, from 80 to 100 per annum, sometimes more if kept well; Dark Brahma, eight to the pound, and about seventy per annum; Black, White and Buff Cochins, eight to the pound, and 100 is a large yield; Plymouth Rocks, eight to the pound, and lay 100 per annum; Houdan, eight to the pound, and lay 150 per annum, being non-setters; La Fleche, seven to the pound, and produce 150 per annum; Black Spanish, seven to the pound, and lay 150 per annum; Dominique, nine to the pound, and lay 130 per annum; game fowl, nine to the pound, and lay 130 per annum; Crevas, seven to the pound, and 150 per annum; Leghorns, nine to the pound, and from 150 to 200 per annum; Hamburgs, nine to the pound, and 170 per annum; Polish, nine to the pound, and 150 per annum; Bantams, sixteen to the pound, and sixty per annum; turkeys lay from thirty to sixty eggs per annum, weighing about five to the pound; ducks' eggs vary greatly with the different species, but range from five to six to the pound; geese, four to the pound, and twenty per annum; guinea fowls, eleven to the pound, and lay sixty per annum. The above are only approximate figures; care in breeding and management of flocks differs so widely that results will vary very much, but it is certain that the size of the eggs and the fecundity of our domestic fowls has greatly increased in the last thirty years.

A new device has been introduced for the German army. It is a cloak cut and finished in such a way that two of the garments together may be converted into a tent, the supporters for which accompany the cloaks.



CHINESE AND JAPANESE PIECES.

the wares of Majorca. Famous potteries have existed in France, Spain, Italy and Germany for many centuries past. In the East, porcelain of superior quality has been employed from time immemorial.

In West Asia Damascus was the center of the trade and manufacture of porcelain, and the Damascene goods were famous both in Asia and in Europe for their elegance of form and for the taste and skill with which they were colored. Bottles, bowls, dishes, tiles, lamps and a hundred more articles of ornament and use came from the furnaces of Damascus in almost endless profusion, and for a time it seemed as if the abundance of the wares would render them valueless by making them too cheap. But china is so exceedingly fragile that only time is needed to correct such an evil as abundance, and little by little the Damascene pottery disappeared, until now it is quite as high-priced as most of the early Italian wares.

There is one peculiarity concerning the Damascene and Moorish pottery—its lack of any representation of the human face or form, or that of any living creature whatever; as the Moham-



LIMOGES EWER.

medan religion, like that of the Jews, was very rigid in forbidding likenesses or any representations of living creatures, and the artists of Damascus were forced to confine themselves to fruits, flowers, and landscapes.

Of carved pottery the Italians, Spaniards and Moors have given us the examples. The Moors were fond of making plaques with raised edges, a vine being traced as a border, with fruits, leaves and tendrils complete, the delicacy of the carving being equaled only by the charm of its coloring.

For a long time, in the infancy of art, the makers of pottery and porcelain did not mark their wares in such a way as to indicate either the potter or the date of the piece, but of the early dated pieces the most famous are those which came from the Siena furnaces, and the most noted name is that of Gubbio. This potter was particularly celebrated for his ruby colors, his shades of green and blue. Like all potters of his time, he kept his compositions a profound secret, and it is curious that chemical analysis, while it may determine the exact proportions of metals employed in a glaze, throws comparatively little light on the subject after all, because a glaze to be effective depends not only on the material employed, but also upon the firing, for a good composition may be spoiled by too much or too little heat, by an exposure too long or too short. So, while we may know exactly what Gubbio used, modern potters have



LION AND KING VASE.

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BRIOT VASE.

gone in porcelain and other articles of ornament. The Chinese pieces are of every size, from a very small vase to an urn six or seven feet in height, and are of form as various as the size, the elegance of some of the pieces challenging comparison even with the most celebrated work of antiquity. The Chinese artists were, however, noted for their preference for modest tints, nor anywhere in their work appear those glaring hues seen in the products of the European furnaces. They are also famous for the innumerable varieties of their colors. In red, for example, connoisseurs have determined fifteen to sixteen different tints, quite as many of blue and green, and even of white and black there are several varieties, as the ivory white, the cream white, the snow white, the milk white, the jet black, brown black, purple black and red black, while the tints of brown and other colors are endless; and besides these, they have tints not to be compared to anything but objects in nature.

The Chinese have been famous pottery makers from before the time of Charlemagne, and when Europeans were lighting with bows and arrows and eating off of brown pottery plates, when they used plates at all, the Chinese were shooting one another with guns and taking their meals off the exquisite white porcelain which has



WHITE VASE DECORATED.

kind attest, when mankind did not have pottery.

There is a marked difference between pottery and porcelain. The former is composed of coarse clay, glazed with some substance entirely foreign and distinct from itself; the latter is made of materials that readily combine with those used in the glaze, and so the body of the piece and the glaze are practically one and indivisible—the two are fused together. The ancients had pottery, properly speaking; the moderns have porcelain. But although there was this difference of the glaze, the ancient glazes did not differ so greatly as might be supposed from those of modern times; their blues and greens were of compounds of copper, their violet was gold, their yellow was silver, their white was salt of tin, while they used lead, cobalt, and other materials well known to modern potteries.



LEAD VASE.

Lead glazing was very common among the early potteries. The name Majolica was derived from Majorca, an island which formerly had



A COLLECTION OF CHINESE VASES.

very extensive potteries which turned out exceedingly valuable work. The potteries of this island invariably glazed their wares first with white glaze, which was burned in, then painted it with pictures, generally in all the colors

## MICHIGAN HAPPENINGS.

EVENTS AND INCIDENTS THAT HAVE LATELY OCCURRED.

An Interesting Summary of the More Important Doings of Our Neighbors—Weddings and Deaths—Crimes, Casualties, and General News Notes.

—The Jackson Courier knows of a laundry in that city where every person, from the proprietor down, chews gum.

—The experiment of giving the scholars of the Congregational Sunday School at Clinton five cents to spend as they pleased, or that value in seeds, resulted in their gathering in a harvest that amounted to over \$100. The money will be devoted to missionary purposes.

—In the Circuit Court at Adrian Judge Lane sentenced Minnie Conkling to three years and eight months, and Mary Panward to eight months, in the Detroit House of Correction. The girls were the last of the six industrial school incendiaries.

—A woman named Mrs. Burr, who lives in Copley, two miles from Luther, while assisting in preparing the body of a child, that had died of typhoid fever, for burial, contracted blood poisoning through a blister on her hand, which broke while she was working. Her arm and body swelled to a large size, and it was with difficulty that her life was saved.

—The logging engine on the Wilson, Luther and Wilson Road, at Luther, ran off the track and became a complete wreck. A brakeman named John Ripley was seriously injured.

—Miss Rose Rice, of Morenci, pined a bushel of apples in two minutes and eighteen seconds.

—The convicts at the prison certainly have no reason to complain of the fare provided by the State, which, the Jackson Patriot says, has been gradually brought up to a condition much better than many poor families of Jackson are enabled to sustain. Steward E. F. Willets gave a

Patriot reporter the bill of fare for each day, together with an idea as to how much is required per month, which is published: Sunday—Breakfast, raised biscuit and butter, rice, coffee and sugar; dinner, roast beef, potatoes, two kinds of vegetables, and gravy; supper, bread and milk and tea. Monday—Breakfast, mutton stew, potatoes and onions, bread and coffee; dinner, corned beef, two kinds of vegetables and gravy; supper, bread and coffee, and occasionally onions or apples.

Tuesday—Breakfast, bread, butter and coffee; dinner, pork and beans. Wednesday—Breakfast, the same as Monday; dinner, fresh beef and bean soup. Thursday—Breakfast, corned beef, oat meal and syrup; dinner, the same as on Tuesday.

Friday—Breakfast, hash; dinner, the same as Monday. Saturday—Breakfast, dried beef steamed in milk and potatoes; dinner, same as Wednesday. Supper is the same each day except Sunday. Each convict is required to eat mush and milk twice a week, at which times they are not given meat, but get bread and vegetables. On Thursday the men who take mush are given corn bread and bread pudding or apple jelly. The cost per diem per man during the month of September was 9.8 cents, a total cost during the month of \$2,173.22 and an average per day of \$72.44.

During the month of September the requirements of the culinary department of the prison were as follows: Flour, 27,432 pounds; meal, 1,400 pounds; milk, 33,290 pounds; coffee, 924 pounds; sugar, 1,200 pounds; beef, 7,810 pounds; pork, 800 pounds; pepper, 96 pounds; oatmeal, 400 pounds; tea, 40 pounds; butter, 605 pounds; saleratus, 20 pounds; mustard, 40 pounds; mutton, 2,362 pounds; dried beef, 611 pounds; currants, 20 pounds; potatoes, 299 bushels; beans, 31 bushels; tomatoes, 83 bushels; beets, 10 bushels; syrup, 141 gallons; vinegar, 64 gallons; salt, 6 barrels; squash, 150; green corn, 1,532 dozen ears; rice, 190 pounds; hominy, 300 pounds; yeast, 30 pounds.

—Mrs. Samantha Streeter, of Spring Arbor, who was robbed of \$1,150 in gold, has offered a reward of \$150 for the return of the money, and Police Detective Snyder offers \$50 for the capture and retention of the thief.

—John N. Bailly, editor of the Midland Sun, is about to engage in a series of joint debates on the tariff question in Midland County with his newspaper rival in Midland.

—Chief Engineer Geo. Cox will make a new survey for the Soo and St. Ignace Railway as soon as the snow is on the ground, says the Soo News, making it this time a direct line between the two places. The construction of the road depends largely upon the attitude of the people along the line. Mr. Cox has been promised much of the right of way, including an entrance into the Soo. Unless the same liberality is shown by others who are to be benefited, it is not likely that the work will be pushed ahead. It is expected that St. Ignace will exhibit a more generous spirit now than when the project was agitated last winter. A direct line to St. Ignace will materially benefit both towns, and it will give the Michigan Central and Grand Rapids and Indiana an outlet.

There are enough capitalists interested in the project to make it go, but the right of way must be secured. A new charter will be taken out if the direct route is chosen.

—One week Alpena shipped by water 11,775,000 feet of lumber, 450,000 shingles, 100,000 lath, 8,000 cedar railway ties, and forty cords of cedar. Eight cargoes went to Toledo, five each to Sandusky, Buffalo, and Cleveland, three each to Detroit and Chicago, and one to Wilson, N. Y.

—When Art Lason removed from Brooklyn to Hudson he took with him a sitting banty which stuck to its eggs the entire trip, and in spite of the cold weather and the long ride hatched out every egg a day or so after its arrival in Hudson.

—The German Lutherans of Midland, have bought the old church across the river from that place, for a \$500 consideration and are to have full possession when the new Baptist edifice is completed.

—It is probably not generally known throughout the State that the northern portion produces not only the finest and most health-giving summer resorts, but also the best and largest potatoes in the world. Lately 30,000 bushels of the finest varieties of potatoes have been shipped from Northport, Leelanaw County, to the Chicago markets. The two chief varieties were Burbank and white elephants. It is to be wondered at that the farmers can afford to plant, cultivate, and market them at the price per bushel—twenty cents—they are receiving; but when the number of bushels raised on an acre, from 200 to 300, is taken into consideration, it will readily be seen that they realize a handsome profit. It is estimated that in Leelanaw Township alone the potato crop this year will exceed 150,000 bushels.

—The Manchester High School has a statistical genius who finds the tallest scholars in that school to be 5 feet 11, a boy and a girl each being that high. The twenty-three boys aggregate 127 feet 10 1/2 inches in height, and 2,909 pounds in weight, while the twenty-seven girls aggregate 143 feet 9 inches in height, and weigh 3,142 pounds. The average age of the scholars is 16 years and 7 months. The Prohibitionists have four boys and four girls, the Republicans nine boys and seven girls, and the Democrats ten boys and fifteen girls.

—The Smead system of ventilation will be put into the Clinton school-house at a cost of \$700.

—Friend Van Every, P. J. Norris, and D. B. McKenzie were nearly asphyxiated at Jackson, in Farmer's restaurant, by escaping water gas used in cooking. When discovered they were nearly dead, but will recover.

—A Medina girl can beat all the boys climbing hickory trees and gathering nuts. She recently made an ascension of fifty feet in a tree and gathered five bushels of hickory nuts. This agile and plucky young lady deserves to get up in the world, and she undoubtedly will.

—Over 200,000 bushels of onions have been raised in the Pittsfield onion beds this year. The market was overstocked.

—Several of the leading doctors of Alpena have organized a hospital, known as the "Red Cross Hospital and Medical and Surgical Institute."

—The East Saginaw Board of Education has \$39,211.55 laid up for a rainy day.

—Mitchell & McClure, of East Saginaw, have not a foot of unsold lumber on their dock. They will put in a full stock of logs for next season, including a quantity of logs they will carry over.

—"Price \$20," was the legend that a Mt. Clemens lady wore on her cloak as she went through town the other day.

—J. M. Davis, of Harbor Springs, has pulled a tomato off his vines. This in itself is nothing unusual, but said tomato weighed 2 1/2 pounds.

—Mrs. Eliza J. Bloodgood, widow of the late Rev. A. L. Bloodgood, of Monroe, and for thirty years prominent in Monroe social circles, died after a long illness.

—In the spring of 1886, Dan Sheehan, then a member of the police force of Saginaw, was shot at while on duty in the night time. Three shots were fired at him. One sleeve of his overcoat was torn with the balls, and his undercoat was also torn somewhat, but Sheehan was uninjured. A search made for the person who fired the shots was unavailing. Sometime afterward Sheehan left the force, leaving his overcoat, which was nearly a new garment, with the Marshal to be disposed of. It became the property of "Zeke" Baskins, who has worn it ever since overcoats became fashionable this fall. Baskins discovered something peculiar about the sleeve of his coat, and after an investigation found a 22-caliber bullet, which had been fired at Sheehan and had remained in the coat over two years. The ball was flattened somewhat at the point, caused by the cloth.

—A Menominee lumberman says: "We started our mill at Menominee the first of the season, by running night and day, but it has really been a difficult matter to keep going the whole season on account of the difficulty experienced in getting hold of logs. It is estimated that 200,000,000 feet of logs are high and dry on the banks of the Menominee River. Over 100 men and teams have been busy for some time hauling to the river. We expect to cut 40,000,000 during the entire season of which 18,000,000 has already been sold to go East, at \$9, \$18, and \$38."

—Escanaba's new opera house, the Opera Grand, will be opened Nov. 28. Lew A. Cates will be the manager.

—Arthur Daily and Thomas Tierney, two Mason burglars, will spend the next three years at Jackson.

—It is estimated that 200,000,000 feet of logs are hung up on the Menominee River.

—D. Cameron will get out 20,000,000 feet of logs on the Ontonagon for Thomas Noster, a portion to go to the Baraga mill and the remainder to run down the river and towed by lake to Saginaw.

—Martin Tanner, of Henrietta, found the skull of an elk with gigantic horns in the Portage River. The horns measure over four feet in height and the skull bones were sunk into the bed of the river. As no elk has been known in that part of the country for fifty years, the specimens are considered very rare.

—The Hart mills at North Lansing have been putting in new machinery, and will be in active operation November 1. The mills have a capacity of 200 barrels of flour per day.